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A Posthumous Psychoanalysis by Freud

# Woodrow Wilson: Oedipus Complex?

## World Affairs at Peace Talks May Have Been Affected

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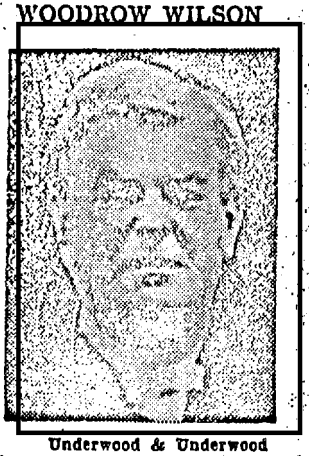
Harris & Ewing

WOODROW WILSON



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SIGMUND FREUD

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WILLIAM C. BULLITT

**Woodrow Wilson was torn by an Oedipus complex and his psychic needs may well have influenced the course of world affairs at the Paris peace talks after World War I.**

**This posthumous psychoanalysis of the 28th President of the United States was made by famed psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud himself in a book soon to be published. The Freud thesis appears in the current issue of Look magazine in an article excerpted from the manuscript withheld from publication since Freud's death in 1939.**

**His collaborator was William C. Bullitt, the former diplomat, who went on a mission to Moscow to talk to Lenin during the Paris peace conference.**

**The Freud-Bullitt dissection of Wilson, who has gone down in popular history as an unflinching idealist beaten down by lesser men of practical politics, certainly is not a complimentary one.**

**He is little Tommy Wilson, sheltered by his mother; a boy who worships his father but also damagingly represses hostility to him; a boy and a man who never dared a fistfight in his life and could thunder like a righteous Jehovah but "when he personally approached battle, the deep underlying femininity of his nature began to control him, and he discovered that he did not want to fight the Allies with force" but rather tried to convert them to righteousness.**

In the Look article, Bullitt charges that Wilson refused to consider an incredible offer by Lenin to confine Communist rule to Moscow, a small adjacent area, and the city now known as Leningrad.

The same issue of Look also carries a stinging rebuttal to the Freud-Bullitt book from Allen W. Dulles, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency, who calls it a study "bred in bitterness."

Dulles questions whether such a second-hand psychological study without personal knowledge could give any kind of a balanced view of a man.

He adds caustically: "Certainly, I would hope that this book would not initiate a series of biographies based on posthumous psychiatric studies of our departed great."

Dulles, who also was at Versailles and was a Princeton student during Wilson's college presidency, said he was the "most popular teacher" there and not the ugly, intense Presbyterian that the authors describe. And he defends Wilson as a "very sick man" at the Paris talks.

Then, in a reverse analysis turned on Bullitt, the former CIA chief sees the former diplomat as a man who espoused causes and people and then could turn on them "with real passion." Bullitt, Dulles says, is still "fighting the shadow of Versailles" and the theatre he despised by attacking Wilson, its chief architect.

The book, soon to be published, is titled "Thomas Woodrow Wilson: 28th President of the United States — A Psychological Study."

Freud never knew Wilson. Bullitt compiled 1500 typewritten pages of notes from diaries, letters, and talks with Wilson's associates and intimates. The book was finished before Freud's death in 1939, but the authors agreed to withhold publication until the death of the second Mrs. Wilson. She died in 1961.

The second Mrs. Wilson has often been depicted as exercising inordinate influence over the President and destroying Wilson's faith in Col. Edward M. House, his chief adviser.

But Freud and Bullitt disagree. They tenuously trace the end of the friendship to the President's subconscious conviction that Wilson's brother Joe had betrayed him (Wilson identified House with Joe, they argue).

The Freud-Bullitt article pictures Wilson's father as a "handsome, vain man" who stood in the pulpit and laid down the law of God." As a boy, Bullitt writes, Wilson "sat in the fourth pew and gazed into the face of his 'incomparable father'." The authors quote biographer Ray Stannard Baker, who wrote that the correspondence between father and son can be called "nothing but love letters."

Wilson, the authors say, did not attempt to escape his father's dominance, and his repressed hostility led to later attacks on men he saw as father substitutes.